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Lake H. Barrett
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

RECEIVED
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Dear Mr. Barrett:

The major risk we face is the risk of **not** moving ahead with the Yucca Mountain site.

Opponents seem to worry about a subsistence farmer 10,000 years from now scratching out a living on top of the repository and being subjected to an annual exposure of twenty millirems. That farmer will be in deep trouble if he is trying to get by in a world where the bulk of the easily assessable carbon atoms have been tied up in atmospheric carbon dioxide or sequestered as liquid carbon dioxide in some ocean trench. Nuclear energy as a substitute for fossil fuels is a must if an industrial based society is to survive.

The data does not support the public paranoia over the health effects of exposure to ionizing radiation. Data now available from Chernobyl shows that two or three radiation induced cancers (per hundred people) are starting to emerge for that portion of the population exposed 20 rem (20,000 millirems!). The concern for annual exposures in the range of 25 millirems is paranoia indeed.

I assume you know that the big problem is not Yucca Mountain, but the scheme you will use in transporting the HLW to the site.

Good luck and get on with it!

Very truly yours,

Richard C. Hill